

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

(Founded - 1919)

The National Library of Embossed and Recorded
Literature for the Visually Handicapped

ANNUAL REPORT

1st April, 1976 - 31st March, 1977

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(Also available in braille)

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

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INTRODUCTION

It is today regarded as axiomatic that visually handicapped citizens are as much entitled to library services as any other section of the community. In Grahamstown, in 1919, Miss Josie Wood started such a service from her own home with 100 braille volumes and between 20 and 30 readers. On the foundations of her devoted service to the blind for more than 40 years, the South African Library for the Blind grew into an institution that is now recognised as one of South Africa's three national libraries.

Its free service reaches readers throughout the Republic by post or through their local public libraries, and libraries and individuals in neighbouring countries are assisted. As a national bibliographic centre, it acts as a clearing house for inter-library loans in respect of literature for the visually handicapped, often employing its contacts with overseas agencies for the blind to assist readers in search of essential study material.

The titles of the books on its shelves are among those to be found in any good public library collection, but the books themselves are either in embossed type for finger-reading or recorded on tape for listening. Because of these special media the library's expenses are far higher than those of equivalent libraries for the sighted.

The Department of National Education provides the South African Library for the Blind with a grant to cover basic administrative expenses, but the library relies heavily on the generous contributions of individual friends, on legacies, on donations from local authorities and organisations, and on the efforts of voluntary service organisations, to maintain an adequate rate of expansion of the book stock and other services.

OUR FRIENDS WRITE:

"The braille books are my best friends. I thank you for knowing my taste so well and for sending me such interesting books."

(Cape Town)

"I also want to compliment you and your co-workers for the wonderful work you are doing for the blind. In my brother-in-law's case it is more than appreciated because not only is he blind, but he is deaf as well and the moon books he receives from the Library are a great comfort and source of knowledge for him."

(Johannesburg)

"The cassette books have provided my father with hours of enjoyment and, with complete sincerity, I declare that they have made him a new person."

(Windhoek)

"Thank you for your exceptionally prompt service with the cassettes and player. May your wonderful undertaking and service be blessed and continue to help the blind and visually handicapped. We are happy that we made contact with this amenity."

(Wolseley)

"We simply cannot express to you the amount of pleasure my mother is experiencing from your wonderful service. She is never bored any more and lives in the story that she is reading. Be assured of our grateful thanks too!"

(Port Elizabeth)

"You have no idea what a difference these books have made to her outlook on life and no words can express our appreciation to all those people involved in this work."

(Umtali)

"What a wonderful age we live in - no longer do I feel shut out, but catered for and pampered too, for there, at the end of each track, are explicit instructions on what to do next and away I go again!"

(Pinelands)

"May I take this opportunity of sending you and your Society my very best wishes for the wonderful work you are doing. Keep it up! Eighty-two years old yesterday and feeling 20 years younger now!"

(Pietermaritzburg)

IN MEMORIAM

The Hon. Mr Justice Wienand

The Judge was born in Bedford in the Eastern Cape and studied law at the Universities of Pretoria and the Orange Free State. On completion of his degree studies in 1958, he was admitted to the bar in Grahamstown. He took silk in 1975 and in September of the same year was made a Judge in the Eastern Cape Division of the Supreme Court, being shortly afterwards seconded to Transkei. When the S.A. Library for the Blind became a Declared Institution in 1968, he was appointed to the Council of the Library by the Minister of National Education. He loyally continued to serve the interests of the Library even after his transfer to Umtata until he died suddenly on 23rd December, 1976, while on holiday.

Mrs I. Hannam

Mrs. Hannam was a patron of the Library from 1923, when the first patrons were appointed, until she died in 1977. In the early days, Mrs. Hannam worked closely with Miss Josie Wood and was, in fact, Miss Wood's braille teacher. As President of the National Council of Women, to which office she was elected in 1928, she used her influence to publicise the needs of the blind. She started the Committee for Civilian Blind in Port Elizabeth and helped organise, on "the first Saturday in May", the first street collection for "Our Blind Day". When she addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Library in 1927 she said: "If it (the Library) was to continue to do the work of a National Library, it should have National support".

Mrs I. L. Shilling

Another link with the past was broken by the death of Mrs. I. L. Shilling, formerly Putterill. She was active in helping Miss Wood and served on the Council from 1933 until 1945, when she resigned on moving to East London. She retained her interest in the welfare of blind people by actively participating in the East London Society for the Civilian Blind.

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GENERAL

The details set out in the ensuing sections of this report, reveal that the year under review was a good one for the Library. More visually handicapped people were served in the various media, total circulation has increased and a very satisfactory number of new titles has been acquired by purchase, by gift, by the coöperation of Braille Services, Worcester School and Tape Aids, and by the efforts of voluntary braille transcribers. The bibliographic work of catalogue-production, though expensive in money and working time, has progressed well and a goodly proportion of special requests, especially from students, could be met from either South African or overseas sources. In addition, a helping hand could be extended to institutions and individuals in neighbouring countries. The Resource Centre for the Blind in Botswana is a welcome new-comer to this circle of friends.

None of all this work is possible without adequate finance. The Library is very grateful that the Department of National Education, despite the difficult economic climate, found it possible to increase its subsidy substantially to cover the increased costs of salaries and administration. Other costs, including the purchase of new books and players for loan, were largely financed by donations and subscriptions from friends and societies, by grants from local authorities and by street collections organised on the Library's behalf by service organisations interested in welfare work for the blind. Collectively, the thoughtful people who send donations in memory of friends instead of buying wreaths, have made a valuable contribution. The relatives and friends of those who have made bequests will be pleased to know how greatly such a bequest is appreciated. This money is entrusted to the meticulous care of the trustees of the Josie Wood Trust Fund, as explained later, so that it will continue to benefit the blind for many, many years to come.

Dr. P. G. Koomhof, Minister of National Education, accompanied by Mrs. Koomhof, visited the Library on July 3rd, 1976. It was a very friendly, pleasant occasion for the staff, especially as both the Chairman of Council, Judge Kannemeyer, and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. B. Conway, were also here to welcome the visitors who showed keen interest in the various activities of the Library. Although the visit was arranged as a social rather than an official one, the Minister made time to discuss various problems, especially the extremely critical shortage of space.

It was good fun to have a film-unit of the National Film Board at work in the Library. Two of our local readers were visited in their homes and two were brought in to help. This colour film, "The National Libraries of South Africa" which was commissioned by the Department of National Education, has now been completed and a preview was held for the Council and Staff in the Albany Museum. Though only 13 minutes long, the film gives a surprisingly comprehensive overview of the work and a glimpse of the history of the three National Libraries: The State Library, Pretoria; The South African Library, Cape Town, and the South African Library for the Blind. It has been produced in an English version and an Afrikaans version in both 16mm and 35mm format, the former for use by members of the National Film Library such as clubs, schools and libraries, and the latter for public distribution.

The Library was fortunately able to send three delegates, a Council Member, the Director and a staff Member, to the Biennial Conference of the S.A. National Council for the Blind held in Cape Town in October. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet many of our readers and to interchange views with representatives of the 30-odd other affiliated organisations. Besides the remarkable amount of work done, there were also

opportunities for visits to the Strandfontein Holiday Resort for the Coloured Blind and the Lighthouse Club as well as an enjoyable ceremonial opening evening. A highlight of the conference was the address by the chairman, Mr. Theo Pauw, on the position of blind people on the open labour market.

Miss Hazel Smith of Port Elizabeth has been appointed to the vacancy in the Library Council caused by the death of Judge Wienand. Miss Smith, who was educated at the School for the Blind, Worcester, and trained as a physiotherapist in London, is an energetic worker in the interests of the blind. She is an active member of S.A. Blind Workers' Organisation for whom, on her own initiative, she undertook a survey of the Eastern Cape. She represents the Eastern Cape in the executive of the National Council for the Blind and serves on several sub-committees of that body. The Council and staff welcome her and look forward to many years of fruitful coöperation.

The work of the Library is facilitated by the interest, goodwill and coöperation of many people. The courtesy and helpfulness of the officials of the Postal Services and of the Department of National Education are much appreciated. We recall with gratitude how the late Mr. K. Oosterberg of Cape Town undertook the repair of readers' machines free of charge, and are happy to record that his son has decided to continue this useful service, in which Mr. R. Hildesheim also participates. Grateful acknowledgements are made to the Standard Bank, Barclays Bank, E.P. Building Society, Grocott's, the School for the Blind, Worcester, Braille Services, Tape Aids for the Blind, British Talking Book Services, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Jewish Braille Institute of America, Recordings for the Blind Inc. and Perkins School for the Blind, Boston. Much help in introducing new readers and dealing with local problems is received from various Public Libraries, the S.A. National Council for the Blind and many of its affiliated societies, St. Dunstan's, the Chairman of Cape Town's Lighthouse Club, various Civilian Blind Societies and Mr. and Mrs. C. Porter of Pietermaritzburg. The State Library and Rhodes University Library are specially helpful to us.

To conclude this section, we wish to congratulate Dr. M. Aldridge, well-known as the first Optacon user in South Africa, on obtaining his well-earned doctorate at Rhodes University. Mr. D. Schauder, formerly Director of this Library, has accepted an appointment in Australia and we wish him and his family happiness in their new environment.

STAFF

Miss E. M. Spurling decided to retire from the full-time service of the Library on 30th September, 1976. Before joining the full-time staff in 1950, Miss Spurling had already assisted Miss Josie Wood on a part-time voluntary basis for some years. In 1960 she became a member of the Executive of the S.A. National Council for the Blind, and Librarian and Secretary to the Council. When the Library became a Declared Institution under the Department of National Education, Miss Spurling preferred to keep her post as Librarian, and a Director was sought. As events turned out, Miss Spurling acted as Director as well for the periods April, 1968 to February, 1969; October, 1971 to August, 1972 and from March, 1973 to February, 1974. Miss Spurling's administrative and organisational abilities are clearly demonstrable in the progress made by the Library during her 26 years of devoted service. Efficiency has always been important to her, but more than that, she has based her service to visually handicapped people on friendship and real interest in the individual person. A host of friends from all walks testify to the respect and affection which she has richly earned. We are very happy that Miss Spurling has consented to continue in her post on a part-time basis and we trust that the Library will for many years still benefit by her irreplaceable presence.

Mrs. Mouton left the Bibliographic Department for family reasons (A beautiful baby girl!) and Mrs. Davies took over her duties. Miss Basson, while retaining the Transcription Department, was moved to the Bibliographic Department also. Mrs. L. Taljaard was appointed to the new vacancy. Mrs. Paterson's husband was transferred, and Mrs. L. P. Wilmot was appointed in her place. Miss C. Boardman was appointed to fill the clerical post left vacant by the departure of Mrs. M. Roux, also for family reasons (another lovely baby girl!). We thank the three ladies who left for their loyal service and wish them well, especially the two proud mothers!

TAPE DEPARTMENT

The phasing out of Mark I players, with adaptors for the modern Mark IV cassettes, was carried out with all possible speed. Though we are grateful that these obsolete machines did so much to tide readers over the transition period, we were not sorry to see them go as they were so heavy and clumsy both for the reader and for us to handle. At present there is no need for a waiting list for Mark IV players, whether for purchase or for loan, so that the needs of new applicants can be quickly met. The attainment of this satisfactory goal was greatly facilitated by special donations made for the purchase of new players for loan purposes, and we mention with gratitude the special efforts of the Victoria League (Rondebosch), the newly founded Lady Jackman Trust and individual friends. Some usable Mark I players will be retained because there are in stock about 70 Student books on the old format which can only be used if the matching player can be made available.

The number of book-titles available for circulation has reached a total of 2680 (excluding the Student titles which are kept apart), covering a wide range of tastes. When the Mark I service was closed down in 1975, many good titles were regarded as lost, but our technician has devised a method for transferring the best of them onto the present format and so resurrected them. The splendid coöperation of the School for the Blind, Worcester, and of Tape Aids for the Blind has helped increase the supply of Afrikaans books and also to fill in desirable English titles that could not be purchased from British Talking Book Service, which is our usual source of supply. The increased number of readers has helped to push the circulation to well over 50 000. Our circulation staff, however has maintained the demanding policy of "in to-day, out to-day" in a remarkably efficient way.

Statistics for 1976/77 (to the nearest 10)

Circulation (cassettes)	52 340
Number of readers served	1 100
Number of titles 31/3/77	2 680
Stock of recorded cassettes	15 430

Increased membership and circulation also means that more work has to be done by the Technical division. It is unfortunately true that break-downs of cassettes and players are inevitable, and occur in direct proportion to the amount of use. We wish to thank our readers who have been unfortunate in this respect for their patience. Everything possible is done to reduce the irritating interruptions in reading to the minimum. Besides the repair and service work done, this division has been much occupied with copying work to provide new titles and maintain old ones.

During March, Mr. W.S. Hedges, managing director of our equipment suppliers, Messrs Clark and Smith, paid a visit to Grahamstown to discuss the service, development of the equipment and other technical matters.

BRAILLE AND MOON DEPARTMENT

The stock-taking of Braille books which necessarily preceded the cataloguing of the collection, was completed in the course of the year, so that complete statistics can again be given. Quite a large number of volumes were weeded out because they had deteriorated with use and age. It is very difficult for a sighted person to determine the readability of braille and we are extremely grateful to Dr. M. Aldridge and Mrs. U. Bruce, both very busy people, who voluntarily assisted in deciding doubtful cases for us. Worthwhile books were set aside for later re-brailleing at Braille Services, Johannesburg.

At the same time, every effort was made to expand the scope of the collection as much as finances and space permit, as will be seen by the number of volumes acquired during the year. The Perkins School for the Blind, Boston, U.S.A., made a very valuable contribution by donating a total of 337 volumes (137 titles) they no longer required. 129 volumes (48 titles) were taken up into the Lebrary's collection and 208 volumes (89 titles) were offered to Schools for the Blind as the Library already had them. New Horizon, Athlone and Vuleka Schools all chose to benefit by the gift. 7 volumes (2 titles) of large print books were sent to Prinshof School. Some kind individuals, whose names will be found under "Gifts in Kind", also donated braille books. During the past two years, the collection of braille books has grown by 2421 volumes, comprising 709 titles.

The total number of readers served with Braille books has again increased, and once more an increase in the number of Bantu readers is noteworthy. The circulation has not increased proportionately, due, no doubt, to the active lives so many blind people live nowadays, working, playing bowls, listening to radio and tape books, participating in club activities, etc.

Statistics for 1976/77 (to the nearest 10).

CIRCULATION	BRAILLE	MOON	TOTAL
Volumes of books	11 740	760	12 500
Magazines	1 260	160	1 420
NO. OF READERS SERVED	490	50	540
TOTAL STOCK 31.3.77:			
Volumes	27 120	4 200	31 320
Books (Titles)	7 450	1 200	8 650
ADDITIONS TO STOCK 1.4.76 - 31.3.77:			
Volumes	1 330	110	1 440
Books (Titles)	410	30	440

It will be noted that the number of Moon readers remains constant — as many give up as join. It is generally recognised that it is very desirable that blind people acquire a tactile reading ability as a supplement to the auditory method, and for older people who find braille difficult, Moon provides an answer. There are now several pupils learning by means of lessons supplied by the Library, with the help of friends. The Dorothy Duncan Rehabilitation Centre in Salisbury has made Moon part of its programme for older people who nowadays constitute the majority of visually handicapped people.

The R. N. I. B. 's Moon Branch at Reigate, Surrey, is now offering new Moon books free of charge. It is indeed a pity that the Library could not make full use of this generosity owing to the critical problem of space.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

After the hard work of stock-taking referred to in the previous section, the actual work of producing the catalogue of English Braille Literature was undertaken. As the catalogue is annotated as far as possible, it soon became apparent that it would be too bulky for economical binding as a unit and it was therefore decided to produce it in two volumes - Part I (Non-Fiction) is arranged by subjects and has an Author index; Part II (Fiction) is arranged by author alphabetically, with certain specific types indicated down the right-hand margins. Every page was double-run so that the printers and the brailers could receive their copies simultaneously. Part I has gone to the printers and to Braille Services, P.O. Box 2360, Johannesburg. Anyone wishing to own a braille copy may contact the latter. The Library will have a number of braille copies for circulation - unfortunately the costs preclude the supply of a personal copy to every reader. Part II is now being checked, run and proof-read so that it too should soon be ready for printing and brailleing.

In addition, an annotated accessions list of Mark IV cassette books in English for the period February 1976 to January 1977 was completed and sufficient copies made for readers' use. An annotated list of braille periodicals available from the S. A. L. B. was prepared and will be sent out with the printed catalogues.

The Union Catalogues of Literature for the Visually Handicapped in South Africa is progressing more satisfactorily. Tape Aids for the Blind has been very coöperative and the Worcester Braille Press carried out the very big task of checking and up-dating the data on all material produced since 1972. As the Union Catalogue gradually grows and covers the ground more comprehensively, its usefulness in tracing needed material increases and the possibility of expensive, unnecessary duplication of production decreases.

Help to students is also channelled through this Department. Loans were arranged for students from the National Library for the Blind, London, The Students' Library of the R. N. I. B. and the Blindenbiblioteek, Amsterdam. The Library of Congress, Washington, has been most helpful in tracing books and Recordings for the Blind Inc., New York, has made a number of books available for loan to students. Some university students followed the good advice given them to contact the Library before the end of their Matriculation year, and a fair number of required books could be found for them quickly. We were pleased that we were able to give some assistance to the Mochudi School for the Blind, Botswana, who appealed for help on behalf of an A-level student.

The club "Lumiere par le son" (Light through sound) of Paris lent us a sound magazine for a French-speaking reader. The aim of this club: "to establish a big chain of friendship and fraternity among the blind all over the world who are able to speak French (even a little)".

We wish to thank Miss Gill Reynard, a Rhodes student, who sacrificed hours of her "free" time to come in and help us with various tasks.

BRaille TRANSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT

A new production record of 207 volumes (21 more than the 1974/5 record) was set up by our team of voluntary transcribers. Our proof-readers (Mrs. U. Bruce, Mrs. A. Manton, Mrs. J. Wahl, Mrs. C. Davison, Mrs. J. Reid), were joined by Mrs. J. Jaques and did a splendid job to keep up. It must be remembered that most of our proof-readers also do transcription work, so that they have a full time-table.

All this work is very valuable to the library's readers, as the titles done are in demand by our readers but are not obtainable from other sources. A very notable example of work done this year was an approved English version of the "Quran" (Koran) which has

been in request not only by our Mohammedan readers but also others who are interested in religious studies. It comprised 13 volumes of complex and exacting braille work, and we wish to quote from the proof-reader's report on this! "This has been a monumental work of great difficulty, needing accuracy, dedication and perseverance of the highest order. I congratulate June Barritt; she has my deepest admiration". This production was the result of excellent team work and thanks are due not only to Mrs. Barritt but also to the proof-reader Mrs. Reid and to Miss Watkinson who inspired the project and provided a loan print copy to work from.

We are sorry that Mrs. Goldthorp has had to give up after six years of fruitful work. Miss Hulston, also, has stopped brailleing due to failing eyesight. She worked indefatigably since passing her examination with distinction in 1971. We take the liberty of quoting from her letter: "How sadly I packed and sent away these things with which I have worked so happily The work has given me more than I have given it. Nothing can take its place".

Miss Mc Cullough and Mrs. Shore have unfortunately had their work interrupted by illness. We are happy that Mrs. Wiles has recovered from her cataract operation and is transcribing again at a great rate.

Volumes completed 1/4/76 - 31/3/77.

(A volume is counted only after the proof-reader's report has been received.)

Ashton, Mrs. L.	14	Newby, Miss A.	10
Askam, Mrs. N. L.	2	Paillard, Mrs. F.	3
Banning, Mrs. B. A.	4	Quine, Mrs. N.	4
Brandt, Mrs F.	4	Rossouw, Mrs. J. M.	8
Brien, Mrs. N.	7	Shires, Mrs. I.	4
Dent, Mrs. S. E. E.	4	Van der Poel, Mrs. P.	3
Dorey, Sr. Thirza	3	Webb, Mrs. O.	7
Evans, Mrs. A.	3	Williams, Mrs. I.	16
Fish, Mr. A.	2	Williamson, Mrs. E.	3
Fish, Mrs. B.	6	RHODESIA	
Fisher, Mrs. R.	6	Barritt, Mrs J.	13
Gee, Mrs. R.	4	Davison, Mrs. C.	14
Goldthorp, Mrs. M.	3	Jackson, Mrs. J. M.	3
Holmes, Mrs. A. C.	6	Reid, Mrs. J.	19
Jaques, Mrs. J.	5	Schnabl, Mrs. R.	7
Kirkby, Mr. N. C.	6	Wiles, Mrs. R. F.	12
Manton, Mrs. A.	2		

Grand Total 207

Our teachers (Mrs. Dent and Mrs. Fish) had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. A. Evans and Sr. Thirza Dorey pass the 1976 Braille Transcribers' Examination, and we congratulate them all. Mrs. Quine and Mrs. Rossouw were awarded the Braille Transcribers Certificate of the S. A. National Council for the Blind, which is a distinction earned only after satisfactory "post-graduate" work.

"The Braille Conscience", an inspiring little book for transcribers has long been out of print. Mrs. Ashdown typed it on stencils and donated the paper so that we could make it readily available to transcribers who wish to have it.

A special word of thanks goes to Miss A. Newby who so willingly undertook tasks to be done locally, such as the English Braille version of this report and some very urgent work needed by a blind young lady studying at U. C. T.

We wish to thank all authors and publishers who have freely granted copyright on request. Some publishers, whose names will be found under "Gifts in Kind," helped reduce costs by donating complimentary copies - a very generous gesture indeed.

BEQUESTS

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the following bequests: Miss V. Barford, Mrs. L. J. Durkin, Mr. F. H. Farrer, Dr. V. F. M. Fitzsimons, Mrs. C. M. L. Fourie, Mrs. J. M. Richey, Mrs. H. Stockwell.

The funds derived from these sources deserve special treatment so that they may be a source of benefit to the blind in South Africa for many years, in remembrance of the kind and thoughtful people who made their contributions in this way. Accordingly, such funds are entrusted to the Josie Wood Trust Fund.

THE JOSIE WOOD TRUST FUND.

The fund was augmented by the generous bequests named above, and by special donations from: Mrs. D. B. Espin, Messrs Green, Truter and Douglas (2), Miss E. M. Spurling, Mrs. M.L. Varder (2).

The specific object of the Trust is to create a capital fund for the benefit of the S. A. Library for the Blind. This fund will be used for capital expenses and will, chiefly from interest, ensure the maintenance and expansion of the Library's services to the blind. By careful husbandry, the Trustees (Dr. J. M. Hyslop, Chairman; Mr. L. B. Green, vice-chairman; Prof. F. G. Butler; Dr. S. Shuttleworth) have already created a solid core of investments, and were able also to provide a much needed facility in the Library building from interest received.

GIFTS IN KIND

The following gifts are gratefully acknowledged :

Braille books and magazines :

Australia: The Braille and Talking Book Library of Victoria, the Queensland Braille Writing Association.

Brazil : Fundacao para o livro do ciego no Brasil.

Canada : The Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Republic of South Africa: Braille Services, Lions International (Glenoaks), S. A. National Council for the Blind, School for the Blind, Worcester, Siloe School, Union of Jewish Women, Mr. R. A. Brookes, Mrs. U. Bruce, Mr. H. du Toit, Mr. J. Ellis, Mr. N. Felgate, Mr. T. Gair, Mrs. A. Jaques, Mr. H. Levin, Mr. D. C. Malan, Miss G. Mkungwana, Miss R. Monia, Miss P. Morgan, Mr. W. Rowland, Mrs. A. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. R. Taylor, Miss I. van Dorsten, Miss A. van Wyk, Mr. F. Wannenbourg.

Rhodesia: Mrs. I. Lamb.

United Kingdom: The Church of Scotland, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Torch Trust Fund, Miss A. Cunningham.

United States of America: The Christian Record Braille Foundation, the Jewish Braille Institute, the John Milton Society, the Lutheran Braille Workers, the Lutheran Library for the Blind, the Matilda Ziegler Publishing Company for the Blind, the National Braille Press, the Perkins School for the Blind, the Reader's Digest Fund, the Theosophical Book Association for the Blind.

Braille instruction course (on tape and in braille) Dr. M. J. Tobin of Birmingham University.

Brailleurs (Perkins and Stainsby) the late Mrs. A. E. Gilfillan.

Stencilled copies of "The braille conscience" Mrs. Ashdown.

Copies of print books for braille: British Embassy, Bybelkor, Howard Timmins, R. B. Howell, Perskor, David Philip, Jane Young.

Read-out cards for flexowriter I. B. M. (S.A.)

Tape-players: Anonymous donor (14), Mr. J. J. Ball, Dr. H. Gluckman, Lady Jackman Trust (4), Mrs. M. Kraut, Mrs. E. L. Miller, Mrs. D. Miles, Port Elizabeth Round Tablers' Wives' Association, Mr. M. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Selvey.

The Victoria League of South Africa (Rondebosch Branch) has donated a further 8 players.

Headphones: Mrs. E. Daniel, Mrs. B. van Heerden, the late Miss E. M. Warren.

Plastic Bags : Watco Plastics (Pty) Ltd.

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(Gestig - 1919)

Die Nasionale Biblioteek van Geëmbosseerde
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1 April 1976 - 31 Maart 1977

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INLEIDING

Vandag word dit as vanselfsprekend aanvaar dat gesigsgestremde burgers dieselfde aanspraak het op biblioteekdienste as enige ander deel van die gemeenskap. In Grahamstad, in 1919, het mej. Josie Wood so 'n diens begin vanuit haar eie tuiste met 100 braille boekdele en tussen 20 en 30 lesers. Op die fondament van haar toegewyde dienste aan blindes vir meer as 40 jaar, het die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek vir Blindes ontwikkel tot 'n inrigting wat tans erken is as een van Suid-Afrika se drie nasionale biblioteke.

Die gratis diens bereik lesers dwarsdeur die Republiek per pos of deur bemiddeling van hulle plaaslike openbare biblioteke, en biblioteke en individue in die buurstate word gehelp. Dit is die nasionale bibliografiese en tussenbiblioteeklenings-sentrum van leesstof vir gesigsgestremdes, en dikwels word die skakel met oorsese organisasies vir blindes gebruik om lesers te help wat essensiële studiemateriaal benodig.

Die titels van die boeke op die rakke kan gevind word in enige goeie biblioteek se versameling, maar die boeke self is of geëmbosseerd vir vingerlees of op band ingeklink vir luister-lees. Weens hierdie gespesialiseerde media, is die biblioteek se uitgawes aansienlik hoër as die van soortgelyke biblioteke vir siendes.

Die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding voorsien die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek vir Blindes van 'n toelaag om basiese administratiewe onkoste te dek, maar die biblioteek steun steeds op die milde bydraes van vriende, op bemakings, op skenkings van plaaslike owerhede en instansies, en op die welwillendheid van vrywillige diensorganisasies, om 'n bevredigende uitbouing van die boeke-voorraad en ander dienste te handhaaf.

Die Raad en Personeel glo dat al ons kragte ingespan moet word om aan gesigsgestremde mense 'n doeltreffende professionele biblioteekdiens te verskaf wat, sover omstandighede dit toelaat, sal gelykstaan aan die diens wat vir siendes verskaf word deur die openbare biblioteke.

BROKKIES UIT ONS VRIENDE SE BRIEWE:

"Die braille boeke is my mees getroue vriende. Dankie dat u my smaak so goed bestudeer en dat u vir my sulke interessante boeke stuur".
(Kaapstad)

"Ek wil ook vir u en u mede-werkers gelukwens met die uitstekende werk wat u vir die blindes doen. In my swaer se geval word dit nog meer besonder waardeur want hy is nie net blind nie maar ook doof, en die Moon-boeke wat hy van die Biblioteek ontvang is vir hom 'n groot bron van vermaak en kennis".
(Johannesburg)

"Die kasetboeke het al vir my vader ure van genot verskaf en ek kan met ope hart sê dit het van hom 'n nuwe mens gemaak."
(Windhoek)

"Ek dank u vir u besonder flinke diens in verband met die kasette en speler. Mag u wonderlike diens en onderneming geseënd wees en vir baie blindes en swaksiendes tot groot hulp wees." (Wolseley)

"Dit is moeilik om te beskryf hoeveel my moeder uit u wonderlike diens put. Sy is nooit meer verveeld nie en herlewe elke storie wat sy lees. Wees verseker van ons opregte dank." (Port Elizabeth)

"U sal moeilik kan begryp watter verskil hierdie boeke aan haar lewensuitkyk gemaak het en woorde kan nie voldoende ons waardering aan al die mense wat betrokke is by hierdie werk, uitspreek nie."
(Umtali)

"Wat 'n wonderlike tyd is dit waarin ons lewe - ek voel nie meer uitgesluit nie, maar versorg en selfs gepamperlang want, aan die einde van elke baan, is duidelike aanwysings omtrent die volgende stap en daar gaan ek voort".
(Pinelands)

"Mag ek hierdie geleentheid te baat neem om aan u en u Vereniging my allerbeste wense vir u uitstekende werk te stuur. Hou so aan! Gister was ek twee en tagtig jaar oud, en nou voel ek 20 jaar jonger!"
(Pietermaritzburg)

IN MEMORIAM

Sy Ed. Regter Wienand.

Die Regter is in Bedford in die Oos-Kaap gebore en het in die regte studeer aan die Universiteite van Pretoria en die Oranje Vrystaat. Na die verwerwing van sy grade in 1958, het hy begin praktiseer as advokaat in Grahamstad. In 1975 het hy Senior Advokaat geword en in September van dieselfde jaar is hy aangestel as 'n Regter in die Oos-Kaaplandse Afdeling van die Hooggeregshof. Kort daarna is hy gesekondeer na die Franskeise Hooggeregshof. Toe die S.A. Biblioteek vir Blindes in 1968 'n Verklaarde Inrigting geword het, is hy aangestel in die Raad van die biblioteek deur die Minister van Nasionale Opvoeding. Hy het die belange van die Biblioteek getrou gedien, selfs na sy oorplasing na Umtata toe, tot met sy skielike heengaan op 23 Desember 1976, terwyl hy met vakansie was.

Mev. I. Hannam

Mev. Hannam was 'n beskermvrou van die Biblioteek vanaf 1923, toe die eerste beskermhere en -vroue aangestel is, tot met haar dood in 1977. In die beginjare, het Mev. Hannam nou saamgewerk met mej. Josie Wood en was, trouens, mej. Wood se braille-onderwyseres. Nadat sy in 1928 tot Presidente van die Nasionale Raad van Vroue verkies is, het sy haar invloed gebruik om die behoeftes van blindes onder die openbare aandag te bring. Sy het die Komitee vir Burgerlike Blindes in Port Elizabeth gestig en hand bygesit met die organisasie, "op die eerste Saterdag in Mei", van die eerste straatkollekte "Ons Dag vir Blindes". Toe sy in 1927 die Algemene Jaarvergadering van die Biblioteek toegespreek het, het sy gesê: "Indien dit (die Biblioteek) moet voortgaan om die werk van 'n Nasionale Biblioteek te doen, behoort dit Nasionale ondersteuning te ontvang."

Mev. I.L. Shilling

Nog 'n skakel met die verlede is gebreek met die afsterwe van mev. I.L. Shilling, voorheen Putterill. Sy het mej. Wood aktief gehelp en het in die Biblioteekraad gedien vanaf 1933 tot 1945, toe sy bedank het omdat sy na Oos-Londen verhuis het. Haar belangstelling in die welvaart van blindes is voortgesit deur haar aandeel in die bedrywighede van die Oos-Londense Vereniging vir Burgerlike Blindes.

JAARVERSLAG

1 April 1976 - 31 Maart 1977.

Die besonderhede wat in die latere afdelings van hierdie verslag uiteengesit word, toon dat dié betrokke jaar, 'n goeie een was vir die Biblioteek. Meer gesigsgestremde mense is met leesstof in die verskeie media bedien, die totale sirkulasie het gestyg en 'n bevredigende aantal nuwe boeke is bygevoeg deur aankope, geskenke, die samewerking van Brailledienste, Worcester Skool vir Blindes en Bandhulp vir Blindes, en deur die werksaamhede van die vrywillige braille-transkribeerders. Die bibliografiese werk aan die katalogusse, hoewel duur ten opsigte van koste en werksure, het goed gevorder en 'n aansienlike aantal spesiale versoeke, veral dié van studente, kon, of uit Suid-Afrikaanse of oorsese bronne, bevredig word. Bowendien, kon die Biblioteek voortgaan om 'n helpende hand te reik aan inrigtings en individue in die buurstaat. Die Sentrum vir Blindes in Botswana word as nuweling verwelkom in hierdie vriendekring.

Al die werk wat gedoen word, sou onmoontlik wees sonder voldoende geldelike middels. Die Biblioteek is baie dankbaar dat die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding, ten spyte van die moeilike ekonomiese toestande, dit moontlik gevind het om die ondersteuningstoelaag aansienlik te vermeerder om die verhoogde onkoste aan salarisse en administrasie te dek. Ander onkoste, insluitende die aankoop van nuwe boeke en die aankoop van leesmasjiene vir uitleening, is grotendeels gedek deur vrywillige donasies en subskripsies, toekennings van plaaslike owerhede en deur straatkollekte wat ten behoeve van die Biblioteek gehou is deur diensorganisasies wat belangstel in die welsyn van blindes. Die bedagsame persone wat hydraes ter gedagtenis aan vriende aanstuur in plaas van kranse te koop, het gesamentlik 'n waardevolle bydrae gemaak. Die familie en vriende van die persone wat bemakings nagelaat het, sal bly wees om te weet hoe hoog so 'n bemaking waardeur word. Fondse aldus verkry, word, soos later verduidelik, aan die versigtige sorg van die trustees van die Josie Wood Trustfonds toevertrou, sodat hierdie geld vir baie jare nog die blindes van Suid-Afrika kan bevoordeel.

Dr. P.G. Koornhof, Minister van Nasionale Opvoeding, het saam met Mev. Koornhof die Biblioteek op 3 Julie 1976 besoek. Dit was 'n baie aangename en gesellige gebeurtenis vir die personeel, veral omdat beide die Voorsitter van die Raad, Regter Kannemeyer, en die Visie-Voorsitter, Mnr. E.B. Conway, ook teenwoordig was om ons gaste te verwelkom wat 'n lewendige belangstelling in die verskeie bedrywighede van die Biblioteek, openbaar het. Alhoewel hierdie besoek as 'n gesellige besoek gereël is, het die Minister die geleentheid te baat geneem om verskeie probleme te bespreek, veral die kritieke tekort aan ruimte.

Dit was pret om 'n film-eenheid van die Nasionale Filmraad in die Biblioteek aan die werk te sien. Twee van ons plaaslike lesers is by hulle huise besoek en twee ander is ingebring om te help. Hierdie kleurfilm, "Die Nasionale Biblioteke van Suid-Afrika" wat deur die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding bestel is, is nou voltooi en 'n voorskou is vir die Raad en Personeel gereël in die Albanie Museum. Alhoewel die film slegs 13 minute duur, gee dit tog 'n taamlike volledige oorsig van die werk en selfs 'n kykie na die geskiedenis van die drie Nasionale Biblioteke: Die Stadsbiblioteek, Pretoria; Die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Kaapstad, en die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek vir Blindes. Dit is beskikbaar met kommentaar of in Afrikaans of in Engels in beide 16 mm en 35 mm formaat, eersgenoemde vir die gebruik van lede van die Nasionale Filmoteek soos klubs, skole en biblioteke, en laasgenoemde vir openbare verspreiding.

Die Biblioteek was in die gelukkige posisie om drie afgevaardigdes ('n Raadslid, die Direkteur en 'n personeellid) te kon stuur na die Tweejaarlikse Konferensie van die S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Blindes gehou te Kaapstad in Oktober. Dit was 'n gulde geleentheid om baie van ons lesers te ontmoet en om gedagtes te wissel met verteen-

woordigers van die meer as 30 ander ge-affilieerde organisasies. Benewens 'n baie volwerksprogram, was daar geleentheid om die Strandfontein Vakansie-Oord vir Kleurling Blindes en die "Lighthouse Club" te besoek, asook vir 'n aangename seremoniële openingsaand. 'n Hoogtepunt van die konferensie was die referaat deur die Voorsitter, Mnr. Theo Pauw, oor die omstandighede van blinde persone in die ope arbeidsmark.

Mej. Hazel Smith van Port Elizabeth is aangestel in die vakature in die Raad, wat ontstaan het as gevolg van die heengaan van Regter Wienand. Mej. Smith, wat opgevoed is by die Skool vir Blindes, Worcester, en opgelei is as fisioterapeut in Londen, is 'n energieke werkster in belang van blindes. Sy is 'n aktiewe lid van die S.A. Blinde Werkers Organisasie vir wie sy, op eie inisiatief, 'n opname gemaak het van blindes in Oos-Kaapland. Sy verteenwoordig die Oostelike Kaap in die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Nasionale Raad vir Blindes en dien in verskeie subkomitees van daardie liggaam. Die Raad en die personeel verwelkom haar en sien uit na baie jare van vrugbare samewerking.

Die werk van die Biblioteek word vergemaklik deur die belangstelling, goedgesindheid en samewerking van baie mense. Die hoflikheid en behulpsaamheid van die amptenare van die Poswese en van die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding word hoog op prys gestel. Ons onthou met dankbaarheid hoe Mnr. K. Oosterberg van Kaapstad, tot met sy heengaan, die versiening van lesers se masjiene kosteloos onderneem het, en ons is bly dat sy seun dit op hom geneem het om hierdie liefdesdiens, waarin Mnr. R. Hildesheim ook 'n aandeel het, voort te sit. Dankbare erkenning word gedoen aan Standard Bank, Barclays Bank, E.P. Bougenootskap, Grocott's, die Skool vir Blindes, Worcester, Brailledienste, Bandhulp vir Blindes, British Talking Book Services, die Royal National Institute for the Blind, Jewish Braille Institute van Amerika, Recordings for the Blind en die Perkins Skool vir Blindes, Boston. Baie hulp t.o.v. die bekendstelling van nuwe lesers en die hantering van plaaslike probleme word ontvang van verskeie Openbare Biblioteke, die S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Blindes en talle van sy geaffilieerde verenigings, St. Dunstan's die voorsitter van die Kaapstadse Lighthouse Club, verskeie Verenigings vir Burgerlike Blindes en mnr. en mev. Porter van Pietermaritzburg. Die Staatsbiblioteek en die Rhodes Universiteitsbiblioteek is besonder hulpvaardig.

Om af te sluit, wil ons Dr. M. Aldridge, goed bekend as die eerste Optacon-gebruiker in Suid-Afrika, gelukwens met die verkryging van 'n welverdiende doktoraat aan die Rhodes Universiteit. Mnr. D. Schauder, voormalige Direkteur van hierdie biblioteek, het in Australië 'n betrekking aanvaar en ons wil vir hom en sy familie alles van die beste toewens in hulle nuwe omgewing.

PERSONEEL

Op 30 September 1976, het mej. E.M. Spurling afgetree uit die voltydse diens van die Biblioteek. Toe sy in 1950 by die voltydse personeel aangesluit het, het sy alreeds etlike jare lank vir mej. Josie Wood deelyds bygestaan op vrywillige grondslag. In 1960 is sy verkies as lid van die Uitvoerende Komitee van die S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Blindes en in 1965, toe mej. Wood oorlede is, is sy aangestel as Bibliotekaresse en Sekretaresse van die Raad. Toe die Biblioteek 'n verklaarde inrigting onder die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding geword het, het mej. Spurling verkies om haar pos as Bibliotekaresse te behou, en die Direkteurspos is ge-adverteer. Sake het egter so ontwikkel dat mej. Spurling tog moes optree as agerende Direkteur vir die Tydperke April 1968 tot Februarie 1969, Oktober 1971 tot Augustus 1972 en vanaf Maart 1973 tot Februarie 1974. Mej. Spurling se administratiewe en organisatoriese bekwaamhede word duidelik bewys deur die vooruitgang van die Biblioteek gedurende haar 26 jaar van toegewyde diens. Stiptelikeheid is nog altyd vir haar belangrik, maar nog belangriker, is die feit dat sy haar diens aan gesiggestremdes fundeer het in vriendskap en 'n aktuele belangstelling in die individu.

Talle vriende oral getuig van die hartlike agting wat sy so ryklik verdien het. Ons is baie bly dat mej. Spurling ingestem het om deelyds in haar pos aan te bly en ons vertrou dat die Biblioteek vir baie jare nog voordeel sal trek uit haar onmisbare teenwoordigheid.

Mev. Mouton het die Bibliografiese Afdeling verlaat om huishoudelike redes ('n pragtige baba-dogter!) en mev. Davies het haar pligte oorgeneem. Terwyl mej. Basson die Transkripsie Departement behou het, is ook pligte in die Bibliografiese Afdeling aan haar toegeken. Mev. L. Taljaard is in die vakante pos aangestel. Mev. Paterson se eggenoot is verplaas en Mev. L.P. Wilmot is in haar plek aangestel. Mej. C. Boardman is aangestel in die vakature wat gelaat is deur die vertrek van Mev. M. Roux, ook om huishoudelike redes (nog 'n pragtige baba-dogter!). Ons bedank die drie dames wat ons verlaat het vir hulle getroue diens en wens hulle alles van die beste toe, veral die twee trotse moeders!

BANDAFDELING

Die uitskakeling van die ou Merk I leesmasjiene, met aanpasplate vir die moderne Merk IV Kasette, is met alle moontlike spoed uitgevoer. Hoewel ons dankbaar is dat hierdie ou masjiene soveel gehelp het om ons lesers weg te help gedurende die oorgangstadium, was ons nie jammer om hulle te sien verdwyn nie omdat hulle so swaar en moeilik-hanteerbaar was vir beide die lesers en vir ons. Daar is tans geen waglys vir Merk IV - masjiene nie, hetsy vir verkoping of uitlening; met die gevolg dat die behoeftes van nuwe lesers dadelik bevredig kan word. Die bereiking van hierdie bevredigende toestand is baie vergemaklik deur die spesiale skenkings wat gemaak is vir die aankoop van leesmasjiene vir uitlening, en ons noem met dank die besondere bydraes van die Victoria League (Rondebosch), die nuut-gestigde Lady Jackman Trust en talle individuele skenkers. 'n Paar bruikbare Merk I-masjiene sal behou word omrede daar nog sowat 70 Studente-boeke in die ou formaat in voorraad is. Hulle is nog bruikbaar vir studente mits die bypassende leesmasjiens verskaf word.

Die aantal boektitels beskikbaar vir sirkulasie (Studente-titels word apart gehou) het nou 'n totaal van 2680 bereik, wat 'n wye spektrum belangstellings dek. Toe die Merk I kassetdiens in 1975 gestaak is, is baie goeie titels as verlore ge-ag, maar ons tegnikus het 'n metode ontwerp om die beses onder hulle oor te plaas na die nuwe formaat, en hulle so weer laat herlewe. Die uitstekende samewerking van die Skool vir Blindes, Worcester, en van Bandhulp vir Blindes, het bygedra om ons voorraad Afrikaanse boeke te vermeerder en ook om gesogte Engelse boeke te verkry wat nie deur ons gewone bron, British Talking Book Services, voorsien kon word nie.

Die groter aantal lesers het bygedra om die sirkulasie na 'n totaal van meer as 50 000 op te stoot. Nogtans het die personeel in die sirkulasie-afdeling die veeleisende beleid van "vandag in, vandag uit" met verbasende doeltreffendheid bly uitvoer.

Statistiek 1976/77 (tot die naaste 10)

Sirkulasie (Kassette)	52 340
Lesers bedien	1 100
Boektitels op 31/3/77	2 680
Voorraad ingelese kassette	15 430

Die verhoogde ledetal en sirkulasie bring ook meer werk mee vir die Tegnieiese Afdeling. Dit is ongelukkig so dat kassette en masjiene onvermydelik onklaar raak, in direkte verhouding met die omvang van die verbruik. Ons wil die lesers wat in hierdie opsig teëspoed gekry het, bedank vir hulle geduld. Elke moontlike poging word aangewend om

irriterende onderbrekings van leesgenot tot die minimum te beperk. Benewens die reparasie- en versieningswerk wat gedoen is, word hierdie afdeling ook baie besig gehou met handkopiesing om nuwe boeke in gereedheid te bring en om verslete boeke te herstel.

Gedurende Maart het mnr. W.S. Hedges, besturende direkteur van die maatskappy Clarke en Smith, wat ons apparate voorsien, 'n besoek gebring aan Grahamstad om die diens, die ontwikkeling van die apparaat en ander tegniese punte te bespreek.

BRAILLE EN MOONAFDELING

Die voorraadopname van brailleboeke wat noodwendig die katalogisering van die versameling voorafgegaan het, is in die loop van die jaar voltooi, sodat volledige statistiek weer beskikbaar gestel kan word. 'n Aansienlike aantal volumes moes onttrek word omdat hulle as gevolg van gebruik en ouderdom verslete geraak het. Dit is baie moeilik vir 'n siende persoon om die leesbaarheid van braille vas te stel, en ons is baie dankbaar dat dr. M. Aldridge en mev. U. Bruce, albei baie besige mense, vrywillig kom help het om twyfelagtige gevalle vir ons te beslis. Waardevolle boeke is opsy gesit vir latere herbrailering deur Brailledienste, Johannesburg.

Terseldertyd is elke poging aangewend om die versameling uit te brei sover as wat fondse en ruimte dit toelaat, soos bewys deur die aantal boekdele wat deur die jaar bygevoeg is. Die Perkins Skool vir Blindes, Boston, V.S.A., het 'n baie waardevolle bydrae gelewer deur 337 boekdele (137 titels) wat hulle nie verder benodig het nie, aan ons te skenk. Hiervan is 129 boekdele (48 titels) in die Biblioteek se versameling opgeneem en 208 boekdele (89 titels) wat die Biblioteek alreeds het, is aan Skole vir Blindes aangebied. New Horizon, Athlone en Vuleka Skole het almal die geleentheid te baat geneem. Sewe boekdele (2 titels) van grootdruk boeke is aan Prinshof Skool gestuur. 'n Paar bedagsame individue, wie se name onder "Geskenke" verskyn, het ook brailleboeke geskenk. In die afgelope twee jaar, het die versameling brailleboeke aangewas met 709 titels bestaande uit 2421 boekdele.

Die aantal lesers wat met brailleboeke bedien is het weer vermeerder, en weereens is die aanwas in die getal Bantoelersers opmerkbaar. Die sirkulasie het nie in verhouding vermeerder nie, miskien as gevolg van die aktiewe lewens wat so baie blinde mense vandag lei met werk, rolbal, klubaktiwiteite, radioluister en die lees van handboeke.

Statistiek vir 1976/77 (tot die naaste 10)

SIRKULASIE	BRAILLE	MOON	TOTAAL
Boekdele	11 740	760	12 500
Tydskrifte	1 260	160	1 420
GETAL LESERS BEDIEN:	490	50	540
TOTALE VOORRAAD 31/3/77:			
Boekdele	27 120	4 200	31 320
Boeke (Titels)	7 450	1 200	8 650
BYVOEGINGS TOT VOORRAAD 1/4/76 –31/3/77			
Boekdele	1 330	110	1 440
Boeke (Titels)	410	30	440

Dit sal gelet word dat die aantal Moonlesers konstant bly - net soveel word afgeskryf as wat aansluit. Dit word algemeen aanvaar dat dit uiters wenslik is vir blindes om 'n voel-lees bekwaamheid aan te leer as 'n aanvulling tot luister-lees, en vir ouer mense wat

braille te moeilik vind, is Moon die antwoord. Daar is tans 'n klompie leerlinge wat, met die hulp van vriende, besig is om te leer, deur middel van lesse wat deur die Biblioteek voorsien word. Die Dorothy Duncan Sentrum vir Rehabilitasie in Salisbury het Moon deel gemaak van hulle program vir ouer mense, wat vandag die meerderheid van gesiggestremdes uitmaak.

Die R.N.I.B. se Moon-tak in Reigate, Surrey, bied nou nuwe Moonboeke kosteloos aan. Dit is jammer dat die Biblioteek nie ten volle gebruik kon maak van hierdie gulde geleentheid nie, weens die kritieke gebrek aan ruimte.

BIBLIOGRAFIESE AFDELING

Na voltooiing van die harde werk met die voorraadopname waarna daar in die vorige afdeling verwys word, is die werklike taak om die katalogus van Brailleboeke in Engels te publiseer, onderneem. Aangesien die katalogus sover moontlik van annotasies voorsien word, het dit gou geblyk dat dit te lywig sou wees vir ekonomiese inbinding as 'n eenheid, en daarom is besluit om dit in twee dele te verdeel. Deel I (Vaklektuur) is gerangskik volgens erkende vakindeling en is voorsien van 'n outeursregister en Deel II (Verhalende Lektuur) is alfabeties gerangskik volgens outeurs en sekere spesifieke tipes fiksie word langs die regterkantlyn aangedui. Elke bladsy is tweekeer laat deurloop, sodat die drukkers en die brailliste gelyktydig hulle werksafdrukke kon kry. Deel I is reeds afge-stuur aan die drukkers en aan Brailledienste, Posbus 2360, Johannesburg. Enigene wat 'n braillekopie wil besit, kan met laasgenoemde in verbinding tree. Die Biblioteek sal 'n aantal braillekopieë hê vir sirkulasie - ongelukkig is die produksiekoste so hoog dat dit onmoontlik is om 'n persoonlike kopie aan elke individuele leser te stuur. Deel II word nou nagegaan, deur die Flexowriter vasgelê en geproeflees sodat dit binnekort ook gereed sal wees om gedruk en gebrailleer te word.

Hierbenewens, is 'n ge-annoteerde aanwinslys van Merk IV kassetboeke in Engels, vir die tydperk Februarie 1976 tot Januarie 1977, voltooi en genoeg afskrifte is gemaak vir die gebruik van lesers. 'n Ge-annoteerde lys van brailletydskrifte beskikbaar by die SALB, is voorberei en sal uitgestuur word saam met die gedrukte katalogusse.

Die Gesamentlike Katalogus van Lektuur vir Gesigsgestremdes in Suid-Afrika, vorder nou meer bevredigend. Bandhulp vir Blindes werk steeds getrou saam en die Brailledruk-kery van Worcester Skool het die groot taak onderneem om die gegewens van hulle produksie na te gaan en op datum te bring vanaf 1972. Namate die Gesamentlike Katalogus groei en sy dekking uitbrei, word sy nuttigheid in die opsporing van benodigende materiaal al groter en word die gevaar van duur, onnodige duplikasie van produksie, verminder.

Hulp aan studente word deur hierdie afdeling gekanaliseer. Boeklenings is vir studente gereël vanaf die National Library for the Blind, London, die Student's Library van die R.N.I.B. en die Blindenbiblioteek, Amsterdam. Die Library of Congress, Washington, was baie behulpsaam met die opsporing van boeke en Recordings for the Blind Inc., Nieu York, het 'n aantal boeke aan studente beskikbaar gestel. Party voornemende universiteitstudente het die goeie raad gevolg om vroegtydig met die Biblioteek in verbinding te tree voor die einde van hulle matriekulasiejaar, en 'n redelike aantal benodigde boeke kon betyds vir hulle gevind word. Ons was bly dat ons die Mochudi Skool vir Blindes, Botswana, kon help, toe hulle hulp gesoek het vir 'n A-baan student.

Die klub "Lumière par le son" (lig deur klank) van Parys, het aan ons 'n klanktydskrif geleen vir 'n Frans-sprekende leser. Die doel van hierdie klub is: om 'n wêreldwye kring van vriendskap en broederskap te smee tussen blindes wat Frans kan praat ("al is dit net 'n bietjie").

Ons wil mej. Gill Renard, 'n student van Rhodes, bedank vir die ure wat sy van haar eie tyd opgeoffer het om ons in die Biblioteek te kom help.

BRAILLE TRANSKRIPSIE AFDELING

Ons span vrywillige transkribeerders het, met 'n produksie van 207 boekdele, 'n nuwe rekord opgestel (21 meer as die 1974/75 rekord.) Ons span proeflesers (mev. U. Bruce, mev. A. Manton, mev. J. Wahl, mev. C. Davison, mev. J. Reid) is versterk deur die aansluiting van mev. J. Jaques en almal het uitstekende werk gelewer om by te bly. Dit moet in gedagte gehou word dat amper al die proeflesers ook transkripsiewerk doen, met die gevolg dat hulle werksroosters baie druk is.

Al hierdie werk is baie waardevol vir die biblioteek se lesers omdat die boeke wat aldus gelewer word, boeke is wat ons lesers wil hê, maar dit kan vanaf geen ander bron verkry word nie. 'n Baie merkwaardige voorbeeld van die werk wat vanjaar gedoen is, is die goedgekeurde Engelse oorsetting van die "Quran" (Koran) wat nie net gesog is onder Mohammedaanse lesers nie, maar ook onder die wat belangstel in godsdienstige studies. Die boek het 13 braille-boekdele beslaan en het ingewikkelde en veeleisende braillewark geveer. Ons haal graag uit die proefleser se verslag aan: "Hierdie was 'n monumentale werkstuk wat akkuraatheid, toewyding en deursettingsvermoë van die hoogste graad vereis het. Ek wens June Barritt geluk - ek bewonder haar". Hierdie prestasie is die eindprodukt van uitstekende spanwerk en baie dank is verskuldig nie alleen aan mev. Barritt nie, maar ook aan die proefleser, mev. Reid, en mej. Watkinson wat die projek geïnspireer het en die nodige drukeksplaar vir ons bekom het.

Ons is jammer dat mev. Goldthorp na ses jaar van vrugbare werk moes ophou. Mej. Hulston moes ook die braillewark staak weens verswakte gesigsvermoë. Sy het baie hard gewerk vandat sy in 1971 haar eksamen met lof geslaag het. Ons verstout ons om uit haar brief aan te haal: "Ek was hartseer om hierdie appaarte waarmee ek so gelukkig gewerk het, op te pak en terug te stuur . . . Hierdie werk het vir my meer teruggegee as wat ek daaraan bestee het. Niks kan dit vervang nie."

Mej. Mc Cullough en mev. Shore se werk is ongelukkig deur siekte onderbreek. Ons is bly dat mev. Wiles so goed herstel het van haar oogpêreloperasie en dat sy weer volstoom aan die gang is met haar braillewark.

Boekdele voltooi 1/4/76 - 31/3/77

('n Boekdeel word getel slegs nadat die proefleser se verslag ontvang is)

Ashton, mev. L.	14	Newby, mej. A.	10
Askam, mev. N.L.	2	Paillard, mev. F.	3
Banning, mev. B.A.	4	Quine, mev. N.	4
Brandt, mev. F.	4	Rossouw, mev. J.M.	8
Brien, mev. N.	7	Shires, mev. I.	4
Dent, mev. S.E.E.	4	Van der Poel, mev. P.	3
Dorey, Sr. Thirza	3	Webb, mev. O.	7
Evans, mev. A.	3	Williams, mev. I.	16
Fish, mnr. A.	2	Williamson, mev. E.	3
Fish, mev. B.	6	RHODESIë	
Fisher, mev. R.	6	Barritt, mev. J.	13
Gee, mev. R.	4	Davison, mev. C.	14
Goldthorp, mev. M.	3	Jackson, mev. J.M.	3
Holmes, mev. A.C.	6	Reid, mev. J.	19
Jaques, mev. J.	5	Schnabl, mev. R.	7
Kirby, mnr. N.C.	6	Wiles, mev. R.F.	12
Manton, mev. A.	2		
		Groottotaal	207

Ons onderwyseresse (mevv. Dent en Fish) is verbly deurdat hulle leerlinge, mev. Holmes, mev. A. Evans, en Sr. Thirza Dorey, die 1976 Braille Transkribeerderseksamen geslaag het, en ons wil hulle almal gelukwens. Die Braille Transkribeerders-Sertifikaat van die S.A. Nasionale Raad vir Blindes is toegeken aan mev. Quine en mev. Rossouw. Hierdie onderskeiding word slegs verdien na 'n tydperk van bevredigende "na-graadse" werk.

"The Braille Conscience", 'n inspirerende boekie vir transkribeerders, is lankal uit druk uit. Mev. Ashdown het dit op wasvelle oorgetik en die afrolpapier geskenk sodat ons dit weer vryelik beskikbaar kan stel aan diegene wat dit graag wil lees.

'n Besondere woord van dank is verskuldig aan mej. A. Newby wat so gewilliglik take onderneem het wat plaaslik gedoen moes word; soos die Engelse braille-uitgawe van hierdie verslag en 'n baie dringende stuk werk vir 'n blinde jong dame wat in die Regte studeer aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad.

Ons wil al die outeurs en uitgewers wat op versoek outeursreg kosteloos gegee het, opreg bedank. Party uitgewers, wie se name onder "Geskenke" verskyn, het gehelp om onkoste te bestry deur gratis eksemplare te skenk - dit is werklik grootmoedig.

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